IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following new paragraph:

This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application 09/810,148, entitled "System and Method for Discovering Information Objects and Information Object Repositories in Computer Networks", filed March 15, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 7,162,539 B2, issued January 9, 2007.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following paragraph:

Furthermore, Rodriguez, Biersack, and Ross (P. Rodriguez, E.W. Biersack, and K.W. Ross, ~~"Improving The Latency in The Web: Caching or Multicast?," Proc. Third WWW Caching workshop, Manchester, UK, June 1998.)"~~Improving the WWW: Caching or Multicast?," Institut EURECOM 2229, Route Computer Networks and ISDN Systems, pp. 1-17 (March 30, 1998) have shown that multicasting Web documents is an attractive alternative to hierarchical Web caching only when the documents to be pushed are very popular, caching distribution incurs less latency.

Please replace paragraph [0053] with the following paragraph:

In one embodiment of the present invention, a Web router is contacted according to a scheme for enabling the discovery of the caches and servers storing information objects distributed over computer networks, which can be implemented in hardware and/or software, by a client, a Web server, a Web cache, or another type of server with a request for the address of one or more Web caches that a client should contact to obtain an information object. Further descriptions of these various schemes are presented below. A complete description of a Web router is included in co-pending U.S. Patent Application ~~09/~~09/810,148, entitled "System and Method for Discovering Information Objects and Information Object Repositories

in Computer Networks", filed March 15, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 7,162,539 B2, issued January 9, 2007, the complete disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace paragraph [0062] with the following paragraph:

To reduce communication and processing overhead in Web routers, a topology of Web routers is defined, such that a given Web router has as its neighbor Web routers a subset of all the Web routers in the system (where the term system refers to all or a portion of the virtual network for Web routers discussed above). A Web router may thus be configured with its set of neighbor Web routers. Such a configuration may be a table of neighbor Web routers which is defined by a network service provider and/or is dynamically updated. In another embodiment of the present invention, a Web router dynamically selects the set of neighbor Web routers with which it should communicate out of all of the Web routers in the system. A Web router preferably communicates with its neighbor Web routers only and uses the Web Information Locator by Distance (WILD) protocol for this purpose. The WILD protocol is disclosed in co-pending and commonly-owned U.S. Provisional Application No.60/200,401, filed April 28, 2000, ~~now~~ from which U.S. Patent Application ~~09/~~09/810,148, filed March ~~16~~15, 2001 (now U.S. Patent No. 7,162,539 B2, issued January 9, 2007) claims priority.

Please replace paragraph [0063] with the following paragraph:

In one embodiment of the present invention, WILD runs on top of the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) in much the same way as the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) does. In this embodiment, a TCP connection exists between a Web router and each of its neighbor Web routers. In another embodiment of the present invention, WILD can run on top of the TCP Santa Cruz protocol [C. Parsa and J.J. Garcia-Luna-Aceves, "TCP-Santa Cruz: Improving TCP

Performance over Networks with Heterogeneous Transmission Media", Proc. IEEE ICNP 99], which is disclosed in commonly-owned U.S. Provisional Application No. ~~60/190,332~~ 60/190,331, filed on March 16, 2000, ~~now~~ from which U.S. Patent Application No. ~~09/~~ 09/810,148, filed March 15, 2001 (now U.S. Patent No. 7,162,539 B2, issued January 9, 2007) claims priority. Other embodiments of the present invention may be based on alternative protocols for the provision of reliable transmissions between Web routers.

Please replace paragraph [0071] with the following paragraph:

In a further embodiment, one of the following four mechanisms, or, a combination of some of the following four mechanisms, is or may be used to communicate the best Web cache or content server, or the set of Web caches (more generally the information object repository(ies)), which should serve a client's request:

(1) direct cache selection;

(2) redirect cache selection;

(3) remote DNS cache selection; and

(4) client DNS cache selection.

These approaches are described in detail in co-pending U.S. Provisional Patent Application No.60/200,404, entitled "System and Method for Using a Mapping Between Client Addresses and Addresses of Caches to Support Content Delivery", filed April 28, 2000, and U.S. Patent Application 09/843,789, entitled "System and Method for Using a Mapping Between Client Addresses and Addresses of Caches to Support Content Delivery", filed April 26, 2001, the complete disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace paragraph [0077] with the following paragraph:

A system and method for using network layer URL routing to locate the closest server carrying specific content (network-level routing of URLs) is disclosed in co-pending and commonly-owned U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/200,402, entitled "System and Method for Using Network Layer Uniform Resource Locator Routing to Locate the Closest Server Carrying Specific Content" filed April 28, 2000, and U.S. Patent Application No. 09/844,856, entitled "System and Method for Using Network Layer Uniform Resource Locator Routing to Locate the Closest Server Carrying Specific Content", filed April 26, 2001, which is incorporated herein by reference.